








## Quick Guide for BIE-Funded Schools

### Parent Consent

It is important to involve the parent in the entire special education process for their child. It is important for both the school staff and the parent to understand what is considered informed parent consent, when parent consent is required, and what happens when the parent does not provide consent.

Element	Overview
<b>Informed Parent Consent</b> 	<p>Informed parent consent means the parent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Has been fully informed of all information relevant to the activity for which consent is sought, in the parent's native language, or through another mode of communication</li><li>• Understands and agrees in writing to the carrying out of the action for which consent is sought</li><li>• Understands that granting consent is voluntary on the part of the parent and may be revoked at any time</li></ul>
<b>When Parent Consent is Required</b> 	<p>Parent consent is required before:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conducting an initial evaluation or reevaluation for special education services and related services</li><li>• Providing initial special education services</li><li>• Providing initial related services</li></ul>
<b>When Parent Consent is Not Provided</b> 	<p>Parents have the right to refuse to provide consent for an evaluation and the initial provision of special education services and related services. The school must make reasonable efforts to obtain parent consent.</p> <p>When a parent refuses consent, the school must make reasonable efforts to obtain consent. Reasonable efforts include various methods used by school staff including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Holding additional meetings with the parent</li><li>• Speaking to the parent to hear their concerns</li><li>• Providing additional information</li></ul>
<b>Language Considerations</b> 	<p>Written and verbal communication must be delivered in the parent's native language. School personnel must take steps to ensure all notices are interpreted orally in the native language or appropriate mode of communication. This includes having an interpreter available for in-person meetings, video meetings, or conversations that happen over the telephone or video formats.</p>
<b>Documentation</b> 	<p>The document the parent signs must outline in writing exactly what the school is proposing to carry out such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conducting an initial evaluation</li><li>• Conducting a reevaluation</li><li>• Providing initial special education services or related services</li></ul> <p>Verbal agreement does not count as informed parent consent</p>